MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 FEBRUARY 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi units "completely" destroyed an Iranian offensive in the Ash-Shib region and Iraqi planes scored direct hits on Iranian positions in the Maysan sector, Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Baghdad radio 6-7 February declared. According to INA, "several hundred" Iranian POW's were moved to the rear early 7 February. However, Tehran radio's Arabic service claimed that Iranian soldiers "liberated" three Iranian checkpoints from the Iraqis.

During a 7 February Majlis session, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that the latest Iranian offensive will be the decisive operation that will finally determine the region's future, Tehran radio reported. Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Iran "does not covet a single inch of Iraqi territory" or resources and urged the Iraqi people to prepare themselves for a better life in which "Saddam's regime does not exist."

Earlier, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stressed that the military situation has radically changed in favor of Iraq and affirmed that the Iraqi leadership is determined to "completely annhilate" the attacking forces and capture those who do not wish to fight, INA reported citing a 6 February interview with Husayn. He stated that Iranian military commanders are "apprehensive" about the offensive and "do not want to assume responsibility" because they realize it is doomed to fail. He added that the Iranian commanders want to hold the politicians responsible for the offensive whereas the politicians want to hold the military responsible. Husayn explained that Iraqi forces have avoided shelling Iranian civilian targets in response to an appeal by the Iranian opposition to refrain from "direct deterrence."

Iran

Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri has been arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, AFP reported citing AZADEGAN.

Lebanon

A 5 February car bomb explosion outside the Palestinian Research Center and the Libyan news agency in Beirut killed 20 people and wounded 100 others, Beirut radio reported. The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners claimed responsibility, the radio noted. The explosion destroyed most of the contents of the Research Center and killed four Palestinian researchers, according to a statement by a PLO source broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. The statement held "the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in Lebanon fully responsible" and called on the Lebanese Government and the multinational force to protect Palestinian institutions and citizens in Lebanon.

Fighting between Druze and Christian militias continued over the weekend culminating in a violent clash in western 'Alayh on 6 February, according to Beirut radio reports. The Druze fighters "purged" 'Alayh of Phalangists, killing 25 of their militiamen and destroying their center, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon admitted that the Phalangists were forced to withdraw their "symbolic" presence from 'Alayh but said they had captured 'Aytat from the Druze militia. Another attempt to reach a cease-fire agreement under IDF auspices will be made on 7 February, the radio said.

The IDF officer involved in the recent incident with a U.S. Marine officer was wounded when a bomb exploded near his patrol in the Ash-Shuwayfat area, Jerusalem radio reported on 6 February. Meanwhile, the Israeli Cabinet decided to drop the idea of requesting a U.S. apology over the U.S.-Israeli incident and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir announced that the matter is closed, according to reports on Jerusalem radio. The Marine officer involved in the incident exuded " strong smell of alcohol" and this may have affected his judgment, according to IDF sources cited by HA'ARETZ.

Lebanese sources said no real achievements should be expected for the 7 February Israeli-Lebanese talks at Khaldah, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

Israel recently stepped up its "threats" against Syria and has made "preparatory actions" in response to the strengthening of Syria's air defenses, a responsible Syrian source announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus television on 4 February. Israel's threats and preparations are accompanied by an increase in its intransigence in Lebanon, the statement added. Alerting Arab and international public opinion to the danger of an Israeli attack on Syria, the statement said Syria will take decisive measures to answer aggression and will regard any sabotage attacks against Syria as aggression.

In a related development, PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reaffirmed to President Hafiz al-Asad the PDRY's "full and unlimited support" for Syria's steadfastness "at a time when all signs indicate that the Zionist enemy is likely to launch an aggression against it," according to a message from the PDRY leader to Al-Asad broadcast by Damascus radio.

The first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, Karen Brutents, arrived in Damascus on 5 February and subsequently held talks with Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Damascus radio reported. According to KUNA, Brutents told the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING that the Soviet Union's support for Syria is "extremely serious" and this will become apparent at a later time. Meanwhile, the Moscow papers PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA continued Soviet media warnings of an imminent Israeli attack on Syria.

PLO Affairs

Officials' Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman on 7 February for talks with Jordan's King Husayn on coordinated Jordanian-Palestinian political initiatives in the Middle East, according to AFP. Meanwhile, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum arrived in Algiers on 5 February to prepare for the 14 February PNC session and announced that 'Arafat will arrive in Algiers on 10 February, Algiers radio reported. Al-Fahum added that the invasion of Lebanon, the departure of Palestinian fighters from Beirut, the Reagan plan, and future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians will be among the main topics on the PNC agenda, the radio noted. In a related report, Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir stated during a Damascus news conference that the PLO Military Council will submit to the PNC a military report containing part of a plan for unified action by the Palestinian leadership, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Al-Wazir said that when this "important" plan is approved, the Palestinian revolution will have one military command and a united national army, the radio added.

On the issue of POW exchanges, Al-Wazir announced that the PLO demands the release of 1,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and 5,000 other detainees in Al-Ansar camp, according to the radio.

Relations With Egypt -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani denied reports that contacts between the PLO and Egypt have stopped and stated that the decision on this issue has been left to 'Arafat, MENA reported. In a statement to the Egyptian magazine MAY, Ad-Dajani said Palestinian-Egyptian relations entered a new and important stage after the invasion of Lebanon, MENA added.

Egypt

Mubarak Diplomacy -- President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Paris following his 10-day tour of the United States, Canada, Britain, and France, MENA reported. In a statement to journalists, Mubarak said it is hoped that Jordan's King Husayn and PLO leader 'Arafat will reach agreement so the United States will be able to use its influence to solve the Palestinian problem, MENA added.

In a related development Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz conveyed a message from President Mubarak to King Husayn in which the Egyptian leader made a comprehensive assessment of his recent talks with U.S., Canadian, British, and French leaders, Amman radio reported.

Relations With Israel -- Egypt has condemned Israeli "acts of suppression" against Arabs in Israel as violations of human rights and obstacles to peace, MENA reported citing Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Iraqi Jews

Iraq has recently allowed some members of the Iraqi Jewish community to regain hitherto sequestered property, Jerusalem television reported. It is unclear whether this constitutes a political signal by the Iraqi leaders, the television said.

Saudi-YAR Talks

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held talks in Jidda with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Riyadh radio reported on 6 February. Salih said his visit to Saudi Arabia is aimed at developing and strengthening bilateral relations, SPA reported.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian Internal Affairs -- The foreign press has been trying to confuse the Algerian people by spreading rumors of the arrest of public figures and high-ranking officers, according to an APS commentary reported by Algiers radio. In reality Algeria is "doing well and is doing even better" since it began a domestic purge to end "immoral practices" and improve economic management, APS stated. The purge revealed that foreign elements attempted to undermine the economy and encouraged "certain political currents under religious pretexts" unrelated to the ideals of Islam. "It is no accident" that the liquified natural gas plant at Arzew has experienced difficulties, that certain small groups have assembled bombs and incited violence, and that a former high-ranking Algerian official released from confinement and now in exile is making "malevolent statements," the commentary added.

Algerian-Moroccan Border -- The Algerian-Moroccan border has reopened following the long closure caused by the Saharan dispute, KUNA reported citing the Moroccan press. A Moroccan opposition leader disclosed that preparations are underway for a meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II, KUNA added.

Further on Moroccan General's Death -- The precise circumstances of General Ahmed Dlimi's death on 25 January are still unclear and eyewitnesses report that grenades exploded in his car at the time of the "accident." LE MONDE reported. Several senior officers were arrested before Dlimi's death, LE MONDE said, and the army did not send the traditional condolence message to King Hassan II.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Major General 'Abdol Qader left for Moscow on 4 February heading a military delegation on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, Kabul radio reported. Meanwhile, a TASS commentary criticized President Reagan for receiving Afghan "hired terrorists" at the White House and claimed that the United States is not interested in a political settlement of the Afghan situation but rather seeks to continue the "undeclared war" against the DRA and to interfere in the internal affairs of the region.

DRA troops have freed 11 Soviet civilians recently kidnapped by rebels in the Mazar-e Sharif region, AFP reported citing a PTI report from Kabul. Four other Soviet captives were killed during the assault and two others were earlier killed by the kidnappers, the report disclosed.

Pakistan

Pakistan will ban public rallies and marches in August 1983 although indoor political meetings will still be permitted, Delhi radio's overseas service reported. President Ziaul Haq reportedly said outdoor rallies are a waste of time and disrupt normal life.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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QADER HEADS MILITARY DELEGATION TO MOSCOW 4 FEB

LD041542 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Major General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, leading a high-ranking military delegation, left today for Moscow on an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Marshal Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense of the Soviet Union.

At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of mines and industries; Mir Sahib Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Council of Ministers; general and officers of the army; F.A. Tabeyev, Soviet ambassador in Kabul; and the Soviet military attache.

REPORTAGE ON UN REPRESENTATIVE'S TALKS IN KABUL

'Final Discussions' With Dost

LD041648 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost this afternoon held final discussions with Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also were present.

Diego Cordovez and his accompanying delegation this morning visited the national museum, accompanied by deputy foreign affairs ministers.

Representative Cites Progress

LD061920 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Before leaving Kabul yesterday, Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general, answered questions from a BAKHTAR agency correspondent relating to his trip to Afghanistan. He said that during his talks in Afghanistan he was promised support for the UN secretary general's efforts to help find a political solution. Progress has been made in formulating a comprehensive settlement of relations between the interested parties on both sides, including the schedule for implementing various parts of the comprehensive settlement, and also the method of performing explanatory work [as heard] among the Afghan refugees as specified in Geneva. Agreement also has been reached on how the process of diplomatic contacts should be continued. He added that the cooperation he received during his talks in Afghanistan will certainly help toward continuing the UN efforts.

Cordovez Leaves for Tehran

LD051700 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's representative, left Kabul for Tehran this morning after a series of talks. He was seen off at Kabul Airport by Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a number of high-ranking officials, and (Shultz Muller), head of the UN development department in Kabul.

11 KIDNAPPED SOVIET CIVILIANS FREED BY TROOPS

BK051552 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 5 (AFP) -- Crack Afghan troops have freed 11 Soviet civilians, kidnapped by an anti-government terrorist group on January 2, after raiding a rebel hideout in northern Afghanistan, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported from Kabul.

Four Soviets were killed during the assault on Tuesday while two others were tortured to death immediately after being kidnapped, PTI said last night, quoting an eyewitness account.

They survivors reportedly testified that they had been subjected to repeated bouts of beating and starvation in the rebels' mountain hideout, 100 kms from Mazar-e Sharif in the northern province of Balkh, bordering the Soviet Union, it said.

The kidnapper belonged to the pro-United States movement of Islamic revolution led by Mohammad Nabi, PTI said quoting official sources.

The kidnapped Soviets were reportedly working in the Mazar silo, a large bakery unit being run with Soviet assistance.

Political commentators in the Afghanistan capital see the kidnapping as part of a campaign against the Afghan and Soviet Governments on the eve of next month's seventh non-aligned summit in New Delhi. It had been preceded by a series of rebel actions which disrupted the power supply to Kabul for about 20 days, the agency added.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS REAGAN MEETING WITH REBELS

LD060618 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The BAKHTAR political commentator writes: Political observers believe White House boss Ronald Reagan is under the influence of the dramatic scenes in the films in which he once played unimportant secondary roles and is now very anxious to decorate [word indistinct] comedy scenes in politics as well.

Ronald Reagan recently met and spoke with six Afghan counterrevolutionary servants who have been put on show in the last few days in Europe and United States by the CIA. After meeting them, Ronald Reagan stood in front of journalists with makeup on his face and said that he was very much influenced by this group's statements.

This counterrevolutionary servant group's statements were nothing but repetitions of accusations and stories fabricated and invented by espionage sources and imperialist mass media. It is interesting that such a responsible office as that of the President of the United States turns politics into such a stage comedy and such a ridiculous scene. In these comedies, a specific objective is hidden. This is the explanation for U.S. imperialism's undeclared war against an independent sovereign country.

Among the other fabricated stories, this six-person group of Mr Reagan's once again repeated the notorious accusation and allegation of the use of chemical weapons in our country by the USSR's limited military units and the DRA Armed Forces. It is an interesting point that, more or less, a murmur in the meeting with Reagan and the Afghan counterrevolutionaries' notorious lie made U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger ask for more millions of dollars to extend the production of present and new chemical weapons in fiscal year 1984.

Reagan himself knows that he cannot keep the so-called Afghanistan issue alive forever in order to deceive and [words indistinct] public opinion and explain his adventurous military designs.

CONGRESS-I GAINS CONTROL OF DELHI COUNCIL

BK070308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Congress-I has gained control of the 56-member Delhi metropolitan council. Of the 50 metropolitan council results declared so far, the Congress-I has secured 31; the Bharatiya Janata Party, 16; Lok Dal, 2; and Janata, 1. Six results are yet to come in.

The Congress-I is capturing the metropolitan council for the second time. In 1972, the Congress secured 44 seats and held control of the council. This is the fourth election for the metropolitan council which came into existence in 1965.

In the municipal corporation election, the Congress-I has secured 52 seats out of the 89 results declared. The Bharatiya Janata Party has secured 32 seats, Lok Dal 3, Janata 1, and independent 1. The five-party Progressive Democratic Front comprising Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist, Congress-J, Democratic Socialist Party, Lok Dal-K has so far drawn a blank. The Congress-S has also not secured any seats. Counting of votes for the remaining six metropolitan council and 20 municipal corporation seats is expected to be completed by this morning.

Officials on Election Results

BK070425 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr C.M. Stephen, has said the [Delhi municipal] election results have shown that his party is stronger than it was in 1980. Mr Stephen said Delhi is a mini India. The people of Delhi have done their patriotic duty by repudiating the trend of regionalism and rebuffing the conspiracy for Balkanization of the country, as he put it.

The Punjab chief minister, Darbara Singh, says the people have renewed their faith in the secular and democratic policies of Congress-I.

GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO SEND MORE POLICE TO ASSAM

BK060318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] The center has decided to send 30 more companies of the central police force to Assam to deal with the situation there. The additional forces are being sent to meet the latest urgent demands of the state government.

The decision was taken at a high-level official meeting in New Delhi yesterday. The Cabinet secretary, Mr C.R. Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, and the home secretary, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, were amongst those who attended the meeting. They also reviewed the situation in the state.

'OUTSIDE FORCES' BLAMED FOR ASSAM VIOLENCE

BK051024 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 5 Feb 83

[By Govindan Unny]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Feb. 5 (AFP) -- A top Cabinet minister today blamed "outside forces" for the current wave of anti-election violence in Assam as tension continued to prevail in the northeastern state.

However, Finance Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, a close aide of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, did not identify the "outside forces," which he said were encouraging local elements to "destabilise" the situation in the strategic state, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Elections in Assam for a 126-member state legislature and 12 members of parliament are scheduled for February 14, 17 and 21. Mr. Mukherjee, who is on a campaign tour of Assam, admitted there might be a poor turnout of voters in some areas.

PTI reports said Mrs Gandhi herself was planning to campaign in the state on February 10 and 11. So far there has been little campaigning due to the heavy security arrangements and the state of "undeclared emergency" there. In a meeting last night with her inner Cabinet and senior Assam officials, Mrs. Ganhdi decided to go ahead with the elections despite the agitation campaign by indigenous Assamese. They oppose the polls as thousands of immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal now living in Assam will be eligible to vote.

The official death toll from the violence now stands at 11, though the unofficial toll is believed to be higher. The latest victim died in a shooting incident with police in the Dibrugarh District on Thursday night.

PRIME MINISTER STRESSES 'BROADER VIEW ON UNITY'

BK041724 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The prime minister said that center-state relationship is not a matter merely of sharing finances or power. It concerns the preservation and consolidation of our unique national character of being one in many and many in one. It is not a question of strong center and weak states or vice versa.

Mrs Gandhi was opening the silver jubilee celebrations of the Indian Law Institute in New Delhi today. Mrs Gandhi said developing countries like India have fewer options. She said in any country, the elite is the peak. It can rise or even stay where it is only with a base strong enough to sustain the weight. The prime minister said our base in the majority of population, who are the poor and economically backward. Mrs Gandhi said taking care of these sections is not a matter of pity or charity, but a national necessity.

The prime minister said, today, India's survival as a nation depends on a broader view of unity based on the interdependence of the states and center and on secularism and social justice. She pointed out that the threat to our independence, democratic system, and the rule of law comes from those who are not fully secular. It also comes from those who do not put their duty to country above considerations of caste, religion, and language and those who use their power to exploit the poor and the weak.

JOINT PLANNING GROUP TO MEET IN MOSCOW IN MARCH

BK041504 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The Indo-Soviet joint planning group will have a meeting in Moscow in the first week of next month to discuss developments of modern economies on the basis of planning. The two sides will consider effective methods of planning in fuel and energy complexes, development, and intensive usage of railways and waterways. The group was set up 10 years ago under an agreement on cooperation between the Gosplan, the Soviet planning body, and the planning commission. The deputy chairman of Gosplan, Prof A.V. Bachurin said in Moscow that cooperation between the two countries in planning covered the entire spectrum of economic, scientific, and technical relations. He said the cooperation in planning on long-term basis reflects the mutual desire for further strengthening of the ties between India and the Soviet Union.

PUBLIC RALLIES, MARCHES BANNED AS OF 14 AUGUST

BK051357 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] In Pakistan, public rallies and marches will be banned from the 14th of August this year. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, General Ziaul Haq said under the Islamic political system, politicians can arrange indoor meetings and have contact with the people. He said big outdoor rallies are a waste of time and disrupt normal life in the country.

Gen Zia also held the view that the Armed Forces should maintain political stability in a developing country like Pakistan.

Gen Zia, however, gave no indication of his plan to hold elections in his country.

SIND DECISION ON BURNED MOSQUE 'ACCEPTED'

BK070437 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] According to a press note issued in Karachi this afternoon, Sind Governor S.M. Abbasi has directed that those involved in the burning of the holy Koran and arson at the Imam Bargah and adjoining mosque and personal property on 28 January will be tried under martial law. A military court constituted in this connection already has begun preliminary proceedings.

The press note says [word indistinct] of the Imam Bargah will be transfered to its new location and the Mosque (Zakina) will be restored at the same place. The Karachi Development Authority has issued orders for the allotments for the Imam Bargah and the mosque. These arrangements have been made under the agreement reached between the Anjuman-i-Fidayan-i-Panjtan [Shi'ite sect organization] and the (Godra Sheikh) Muslim Association.

The Sind governor also has directed that the assessment of property losses be completed within 7 days so that compensation can be paid. The press note adds that the local authorities have been instructed to be on the alert and to provide security for religious sites of all sects. The press note says all concerned have accepted these decisions and the situation has now returned to normal.

POLICE FIRING ON COLLEGE STUDENTS DENIED

BK041620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] The District magistrate of (Faizabad) has issued a press note today which describes as completely false and baseless the report published in sections of the press, saying the police opened fire on (Juranwala) government college students. The press note says in truth three young people had indulged in certain misbehavior with a college lecturer and his wife. As a protest against this incident, students of the college came out on the streets, stopped traffic, and forcibly drove buses into the college compound. When the police arrived, they pelted them with stones.

The press note adds that the police had to resort to light cane charge to open traffic and to save public property from damage. The police fired three tear gas shells to control the situation. The press note says the order for investigations in this case already has been issued.

NEW OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED AGAINST IRAQI FORCES

GF070510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Dear listeners: Attention please. According to reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya [Last of the Prophets] camp, the center for the combined operations of the Iranian army and the Islamic Revolution Guards, the Islamic fighters, with the grace of God, last night began the initial action of a new offensive and in the first few hours of the operation, after annihilating enemy forces and destroying enemy positions, succeeded in liberating another vast tract of the Islamic Republic in the southern sector which until last night had been under the Zionist enemy's occupation.

A detail report on this victorious action will be conveyed later on to the martyr-nurtured nation later.

Communique No 1

GF070626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Dear listeners: Your attention please. Here is Communique No 1 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya camp which was issued a few moments ago: The offensive began at 2130 hours last night. The first stage of the widespread Wal Fajr ["By the Dawn" -- opening words of Chapter 89 of the Koran] operation began with the cry "O Allah." Under the Wal Fajr operation, the Iranian forces according to the plan have continued their progress and after passing over wide minefields and canals have liberated with force more areas from the Bathist-Zionist forces of Iraq. After silencing the enemy's gunfire, they are now defending the liberated territory and restricting the enemy's movements on the tracts of captured land.

Detailed reports on the offensive will be given to the nation of Hezbollah later on.

Checkpoints Liberated

GF070704 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0628 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The latest report of our correspondent from the forward lines of the front indicates that the soldiers of Islam in continuing the Wal Fajr operation which began last night with the keyword "O Allah, O Allah, O Allah" succeeded in liberating the checkpoints of Safireh, Rashidi, and Sobluiyeh which had been occupied by the aggressive forces of the ruling regime in Iraq for 868 days. The defenders of the Islamic Revolution hoisted high the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran over these checkpoints.

Iraqi Brigade Surrounded

GF070718 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0640 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Reports coming from the headquarters of the Khatam ol-Anbiya camp indicate that a brigade of the 14th Division of the Iraqi regime's army was surrounded last night by the soldiers of Islam and [word indistinct] the Wal Fajr ath-Thafirah [By the Dawn Victorious] operation. All members of the brigade were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner by the defenders of the Islamic Revolution.

POW's Transferred

LD071115 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Karbala HQ., Feb 7 (IRNA) -- The transfer of Iraqi POWs to places behind the fronts started this morning.

The Islamic combatants shattered the enemy's greatest strongholds in the course of the war in Wal Fajr operation.

In this stage, the enemy resorted to digging numerous canals, installation of incendiary networks, electric explosive traps, barbed wires, vast minefields and ambushes, all of which, were annihilated through the help of Allah by the Islamic combatants.

The Iranian forces are now dominating the region and have the initiative.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI EXPLAINS NEW OFFENSIVE

GF071002 Tehran International Service in A .c 0900 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani has expressed the hope that the latest operation launched last night by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the last decisive operation that finally determines the future of the region.

Speaking at an open Majlis session today, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that during the past 3 months the Islamic Republic of Iran had given the Iraqi Army and regime and the protectors of that regime the opportunity and time to accede to the just demands of the Muslim Iranian people.

The Majlis speaker added: This period of grace granted by Iran was regrettably construed as a sign of weakness or as a different sign. This compelled us to proceed and wrest our rights by force.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Islamic Iran does not covet a single inch or any part of the Iraqi people's territory and resources or the resources and interests of area countries, particularly the small countries lying in the southern Persian Gulf.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced to the Iraqi people that they should prepare themselves for a better life in which Saddam's regime does not exist. He urged area countries, particularly the countries of the southern Persian Gulf, to understand the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to avoid creating conditions that are likely to prolong the war.

COMMANDERS ISSUE MESSAGES ON NEW OFFENSIVE

GF071042 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Interview with Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Rezai and Ground Forces Commander Sayyad-Shirazi on 6 February -- place not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Brother Rezai, at this very sensitive time, what message do you have for the victorious and Muslim nation of Iran?

[Answer] In the operation of the fighters of Islam which started at 2130 tonight codenamed "O Allah," the grand name of the glorious Almighty, our forces have progressed and are capturing the trenches of the Saddamists one after the other, thus continuing their defense of Islam and our country.

In continuation of the defense of the country, we were forced to continue our battle and to go to the area from where the Saddamists fire their rockets against our cities. We hope the Almighty will give us his blessing and victory as in the past. We ask our entire nation to pray profusely in all mosques. God willing, they should pray for the life of the fighters of Islam so that the Almighty will give more power to the fighters in order to achieve their goals.

[Question] Brother Shirazi, in these glorious moments, while our fighters are attacking the Bathist-Zionist enemies, please tell us what message you have for the victorious and Muslim Iranian nation?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Brother Rezai has outlined the major portion of my message. I add only that the operation was started in the holy name of Wal Fajr and, Godwilling, it will be implemented with its deep meaning in order to shine the light of God on the oppressed country of Iraq.

We hope to achieve great victories in this operation. However, we have this message as tidings for our dear nation, that is, we have already attained a great portion of our goal and with the cooperation and unity that exist among the fighters of Islam, we continue to pray to the Almighty to continue to move forward. I also beg for prayers from our fighting nation for the life of the dear imam to be kept as our guide in this holy trial and also pray for the life of the fighters who are fighting purely and are willingly attaining the presence of the Almighty.

UN REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES FROM KABUL 5 FEBRUARY

LD060017 Tehran Domestic Service in Persia 1630 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's special envoy, who visited Afghanistan at the head of a delegation seeking a settlement for the question of Afghanistan, arrived in Tehran at noon today in the continuation of his mission.

Settlement Conditions Stressed

LD070944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Following the negotiations between the UN secretary general's special envoy, (?Diego Cordovez), and the managing director for political affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in connection with the Afghanistan issue, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman announced: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is still stressing its four principles to solve the Afghanistan issue. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that without the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops, their nonreplacement with another oppressive force, the return of all Afghan refugees to their homeland, and the right to determine their own destiny, the Afghan issue will not be resolved. He added: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hold any direct or indirect talks with the Kabul regime and, as previously announced, will not take part in the Geneva talks.

TUDEH PARTY'S KIANURI REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

NC070826 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7 (AFP) -- Nureddin Kianuri, the general secretary of the Tudeh Party, Iran's communist party, has been arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, the AZADEGAN newspaper reported today.

The newspaper report coincided with a statement issued by the revolutionary guards, which said the group arrested "several spies in relation with the KGB" on Saturday night. It did not say that Mr Kianuri was among them.

AZADEGAN said that "Mr Kianuri, a man who has a long past in a party that we know well," was arrested with several other ranking members of Tudeh.

"Documents were discovered and these persons confessed from the first interrogations," it said.

A revolutionary guard spokesman declined to confirm or deny the report, and said a new statement would be issued shortly.

Mr Kianuri, 71, has been Tudeh's general secretary since September 1978. Nominally, Tudeh backs the Islamic regime in Tehran, but is still obliged to be discreet about its activities to avoid being banned.

The government and the party had seemed to have been at an uneasy peace in recent months, but in November a Tudeh magazine edited by Mr Kianuri, QUESTIONS-ANSWERS, suspended publication after it was seized.

In December, the Interior Ministry refused to let Mr Kianuri run in partial legislative elections on December 10, informed sources said.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,204

LD041734 Tehran Domestic in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,204 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, the struggling and selfless combatants of Islam, epic-inspiring warriors who -- with their unprecedented bravery and by sacrificing their pure blood -- are going to illuminate the pages of Islam's history, relying on the power of belief and assisted by God, continue their ceaseless efforts in their battle against the enemy on all fronts. Some of the activities of the defenders of the Islamic Revolution during the past 24 hours are:

Our brave forces yesterday opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy personnel and armored equipment and inflicted considerable damage and casualities on them. Our fighting forces stationed on the banks of the Arvand Rud, opened fire on Saddamist positions on the other side of the river, destroying eight collective entrenchments and six observation posts and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi military personnel. At 1200 hours on 2 February, an enemy helicopter was hit by our antiaircraft defense fire on one of the southern operational region fronts and was downed.

In the western operational zone, exchanges of fire continued on most border fronts in Ilam and Bakhtaran during the past 24 hours. In the exchanges of fire on these fronts, one vehicle carrying Iraqi personnel was destroyed and two other vehicles sustained damaged. The number of enemy personnel killed in this region is at least 35; a number were wounded. Also, enemy entrenchments on the western fronts were set on fire and most of the personnel positioned in those entrenchments were killed.

In Marivan region, the brave combatants of Islam destroyed parts of Iraqi military installations and positions and silenced the enemy's heavy weapon's fire in Sunam and Hasanabad regions while opening fire on several gathering points of the Iraqi forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,205

LD051745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,205 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the last 24 hours, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between the combatants of Islam and the Saddamist mercenaries along most of the country's western fronts. The Islamic combatants' fire destroyed sections of the enemy's positions and entrenchments, killing or wounding a number of their personnel.

On the Marivan fronts, the heavy fire of the Ground Forces' artillery units pounded Iraqi positions in Kolluk and Dar-e Bar. Four heavy weapons emplacements of the aggressive Iraqi forces were destroyed and several of their forces were killed.

On the fronts in the southern operational regions, the Islamic combatants continued defending their positions, inflicting damage and casualties on enemy forces by firing on enemy positions and carrying out patrol missions and tank-hunting operations. Our forces defended the positions and regions under their protection and prevented Iraqi forces from moving. At 0100 yesterday, Saddamist mercenary elements tried to approach our defense lines in Kushk region but the vigilant Islamic forces opened fire on the Iraqi aggressors, repulsing them and forcing them to flee.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the Islamic combatants consisting of courageous Navy personnel, warriors of the Gendarmerie, and other fighting forces stationed in the region returned enemy fire, inflicting considerable damage and casualties on enemy forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud and stopping their troops movements. Gendarmerie combatants succeeded in killing or wounding more than 30 Saddamist infidels and in destroying several of the Iraqi forces' trenches and foxholes.

Abadan yesterday was still under fire from the Saddamist criminal mercenaries' artillery and sustained some damage. In the last 24 hours, several aircraft belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces attempted to violate the airspace in the country's southern and western border regions, but the selfless personnel of the Air Force with their tactial moves and the antiaircraft defense units with their defensive fire foiled these acts of aggression by the Saddamist mercenaries and forced the Iraqi fighter planes to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,206

LD061733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,206 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday in the western operational theater, exchanges of fire continued and the Islamic combatants' heavy weapons fire checked enemy movements and activities on all fronts.

On the Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin, and Dehloran border fronts, the exchanges of fire were comparatively more intense than in other sectors. In several areas, our patrols infiltrated enemy positions. Our artillery units fired on evenmy supply routes and mechanized columns.

In the southern operational theater, the Islamic combatants fired on enemy artillery and mortar emplacements, silencing their fire, they continued defending their positions while enjoying complete superiority.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the Islamic forces destroyed (?nine) trenches and foxholes, an observation post, an assembly point, and several enemy light and heavy weapon emplacements on the other side of the Arvand Rud.

The enemy yesterday fired sporadically on Abadan, as a result of which parts of the city were damaged.

In the last 24 hours, several enemy aircraft appeared over a number of southern and western border regions but were forced to flee before doing anything by the alertness and prompt firing of the anti-aircraft units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN ARABIC BROADCASTS APPEALS TO IRAQIS

GF070558 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] O you who were pushed by the butcher of Iraq to the places of crime and death. Choose to cross to the front of justice where you find your brothers in religion, doctrine, and humanitarianism. You will have the honor to be the guests of the imam of the nation and the Islamic Republic. With this, you hasten the ending of the rule of the despots in Baghdad. Afterwards, you will return to your homes and relatives where they will have the joy of Islam and the victory of the faithful.

Call To Lay Down Arms

GF070634 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] O free children of Iraq, o free soldiers and officers of Iraq [words indistinct] which was heard in the desert of Karbala' is now heard again along the warfronts. This is the call of Imam al-Huseyn, [word indistinct] the martyr, the call of immortal justice which supports the religion of God, the support of Islam. The support for Islam is today represented by standing alongside the victorious Islamic masses [word indistinct]. Our brother Iraqi officers and soldiers, O brothers, lay down your weapons and raise your voices through [word indistinct] and join the forces of the Islamic Revolution and with that, you will do a great deed. God is great and victory is for Islam.